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If our friends who favor us with manu-ripts and illustrations for publication wis have rejected articles returned they mus-all cases send stamps for that purpose. TELEPHONE, BEEKMAN 2200.

Christmas.

Through motives that were of the earth earthy, PILATE allowed the Christ to be crucified; but the empire for which the Roman potentate sacrificed himself has passed away, while that for which his victim died has outlived the ages. The glory that PILATE represented long ago crumbled into nothingness, but CHRIST's kingdom, created not of CESAR but of Gon, has survived, and shall survive.

This cataclysm of war, cited by pesmists and scoffers to establish that PILATE, not CHRIST, has prevailed over the soul of man, in reality has revenled as has no other event in his tory the willingness of countless millions of men to acknowledge the existence of something more precious than life itself. He who offers his blood for a cause has rejected the call of earth to heed the call of the spirit.

The merriment of Christmas Day a never heretofore is founded in sorrow. but has not the anniversary of Him who gave to mankind new definitions of life and death taken on, through the very sources of that sadness, a deeper denificance than it held before?

Some Practical Difficulties of the Eight Hour Day.

The reasons influencing Professo Howay, the Federal arbitrators who initiative during an attack." have been considering the demand of the Switchmen's Union of North 160 Victoria Crosses were won by men America for an eight hour day, are in- of the army and navy. Regulars, Terteresting not only as they illuminate ritorials, KITCHENER'S volunteers, Cothe decision reached in this case but lonials, East Indians and naval men of disputes:

"Although it has seemed wise to award an eight hour day as a standard minimum day, the overwhelming weight of glorious boy John Travers Cornwall. testimony shows that the conditions of who remained mortally wounded at his the various kinds of railway work are so post in the battle of Jutland until the different that only time can determine just how far eight hour shifts can be worked without prohibitory cost to the roads and undue disturbance to the was wounded in both legs and a hand works of their patrons.

eight hour day effective in the case of cent, during the first year."

The application of the eight hour day to any industry is theoretically simple. One gang quits and another takes its place. Actually the transfer of labor from one shift to another is not so easily accomplished, particularly in employments subject to such hazards as those of railroading. A measurable leeway must be allowed for incidents of the calling, and the establishment of a rigid rule and infliction of severe penalties for its violation would be unjust to employers and to the public, on whom the ultimate cost would fall.

The Rumanian Treasures.

How great a war prize the Teuton's invasion of Rumania yielded as a holiday gift to Germany and Austria remains a subject of considerable conjecture. The earlier reports from Berlin were to the effect that by the first of the year there would be returning to these countries a great wealth of grain and oil, but an official communication issued in London says that the British Minister has received a satisfactory report of the destruction by the Rumanian Government of most of the oil wells and

Importance is attached to the oil products and the refineries because it was from these that the Central Powers had the greatest expectation of finding a relief in Rumania to the pressing needs at home. The most productive wells were in the Prahova valley between Ploescl and the Predeal pass, against which Gen. FAL- moving only a few feet with every KENHAYN directed his first attacks. effort, until a British trench was The yield of more than 1,500,000 tons reached and a sentinel challenged. in 1915 and the likelihood that this Lieutenant A. V. SMITH of an East could be increased to the greater pro- Lancashire regiment threw himself duction of years preceding the war upon a grenade that had fallen from presented to the invaders a great po- his hand and saved several officers tentiality of wealth. Germany and and men by sacrificing his own life. Austria had received about 98 per cent. of the export of the refined what could be finer than the devotion products of 1915. But as the Ru- of Lleutenant George ALLAN MALING manian Government had treated pe- of the Medical Corps, who at Fautrol, or gussiene, as contraband only quissart worked among the wounded three per cent, of this derivative was in the open under shell fire for twentysent to these countries.

But the report issued by the Rumanians that they had destroyed all the manufactured products in their retreat was not denied by the Central Powers. If the wells and the refineries were also destroyed the work of reconstruction will constitute so difficult an undertaking as to make their immediate productivity out of the question.

upon Bucharest and that of \$8,000,000 | trenches and carried the enemy's poupon the little town of Craiova are sition. The pipes have been repaired being exacted by the same rigorous methods employed at Brussels. And although Rumania boasts of what no other Balkan land has, many millionaires, it is doubtful, according to reports, if these heavy exactions can dens would cause their ruin. A modification of the terms was said to be under consideration, although unlikely IAM's congratulation that Bucharest was one of the goals "but not the final one" would indicate that that city will become the base of further operations in southern Europe.

The Austro-German attacks are at present directed against the Russian forces in the Dobrudja, and they have met with sufficient success to compel north toward the main line along the Screth. The "goal" may be the capture of the Rumanian forces that sought refuge behind the Russian line or it may be the turning of the left flank of the long Russian front and the completion of the occupation of Rumanian territory. But General MACKENSEN'S reference to another "goal" is a confession that there yet remains much to be accomplished before he can turn over Rumania as an assured and certain treasure.

Victoria Cross Valor.

The latest awards of the Victoria Cross have gone to three officers and two privates of English regiments, a distinguished themselves by rallying and leading troops under fire in most desperate situations and storming or holding positions against great odds. To Illustrate, Private Robert Rider of the Middlesex Regiment assumed comthese British soldiers were as famous budget held no promise of real relief your life its highest beauty and joy,
mand of his company when all the for doing things without orders, on or permanent improvement.

Alas! how dreary would be the world emy's position. Rider received the heroism. J. W. JENKS and Judge CHARLES B. V. C. "for conspicuous bravery and

In the first two years of the war

as they shed light on the difficulties all grades qualified as heroes, a term that will be encountered in similar that is not misapplied in their cases. One of them was an elderly man who left a wife and nine children at home to serve his country; another was the end. The first to win the Cross in the great war was Captain Francis O. GRENFELL of the Ninth Lancers, who at Andregules, Belgium, on August except the history at Andregules, Belgium, on August old soldiers. And then, in 1907, a "It seems to be clearly established that 24, 1914, while saving the guns of the 119th Battery. He was invalided home under even conditions of traffic less but returned to the front and was strenuous than the present it will be killed in action. In his will Captain impossible to make the actual working GRENFELL, a nephew of Field Marshal Lord GRENFELL, left his decoration to more than a small percentage of the the Ninth Lancers, "to whom," he switching crews, not more than 10 per wrote, "the honor of my gaining the V. C. was entirely due, thanks to the splendid discipline and traditions which exist in this magnificent regiment" of the First One Hundred Thousand, the "Old Contemptibles," whose story has been told by Captain ERNEST HAMILTON, one of the few surviving officers. Some of the regiments, the Coldstream Guards for instance, lost almost every officer. The Expeditionary Force had been trained to fight to the last gasp, and there vas little of it left when the battle of the Marne was fou ht.

> What was the bravest deed that won the Victoria Cross can hardly be told. It depends upon the point of view Some soldiers, like Sergeant MICHAEL O'LEARY and Lance Corporal ALBERT JACKA of the Australian Imperial Force, acquitted themselves as supermen in attacking the enemy. The indomitable O'LEARY's achievement has rung through the world. JACKA at Courtney's Post in Gallipoli single handed shot or bayoneted seven Turks who rushed the trench he was defending, Jacka being the only man alive or unwounded in it. The blood of these first class fighting men, O'LEARY and JACKA, was up; but there were examples of valor when the head was cool and the will dogged. Take the case of Corporal CHARLES JARVIS of the Royal Engineers, who worked for an hour and a half under fire to explode charges which destroyed a bridge on the retreat from Mons. Private Ports of the Berkshire Infantry, shot in the left thigh, dragged a worse wounded comrade for three nights on an intrenching shovel at Suvia Bay,

For calm and indomitable heroism six hours dressing the wounds of more

wounded and his pipes were smashed, of the family used to make. The tax of \$130,000,000 imposed but the Scots jumped from their

with silver mountings. Major C. YATE of the Second Yorkshire Light Infantry was mortally wounded and taken prisoner at Le Catenu, but not until he had led the nineteen survivors of his battalion of be met by either place. Both have 220 men in a charge. Only three were public eating house. Whether she be declared that to insist upon the in- on their feet at the end. "He was from Sweden or Ireland or Virginia fliction of such severe municipal bur- seen far ahead of his men riding sin- her past services have been confined gle handed straight for the enemy's standards." That was Major Groson for purposes of more exact descrip-WHEELER of the Seventh Lancers at tion "a private family." It is by proto be made. The response of Gen- Shalba, Mesopotamia, a born leader eral Mackensen to Emperor Will- of forlorn hopes. In this forlorn hope he was killed.

Photographs of not all the glorious company of Victoria Cross winner have been taken, but from scores of pictures an impression of characteris steadfast look about most of the faces; seldom, if ever, a pose of conscious gallantry. They are the faces of jus the retirement of the Czar's forces plain men who have the instinct of doing their best when it is most comrade in the lurch. The animation danger gayly if aggressively. The many majority in the heard was no V. C. man usually seems to be the is hardly present at all. Braggadocio tion, and the financial programme ar is entirely absent. Some men do not look the part at all. The deathless YATE had a small chin, a keen, laugh ing eye, hair parted in the middle. and might have been taken for a frivolous society man. Private Ports, the Gallipoli life saver, has flaring cars, a twisted mouth, a flippant eye, and looks absolutely unheroic. The antecedents of some of the V. C. winners did not promise much. Corporal sergeant of a Scotch regiment and FULLER, who was mentioned in Sir sergeant of an Irish regiment. All JOHN FRENCH's despatches for conspic uous gallantry at Chivy, was graduated from a reformatory.

However ordinary, of no account, of obscure at home, whatever their orlofficers had been killed or disabled, led their own initiative, as for coolness remnant of men forward, worked a and bravery. The aristocrats who won Lewis gun, cleared the trench in front the coveted honor were expected to be of him with it, and captured the en- brave. Some of them really inherited

Growing Fame of a Georgia Peak

On a day late in June, 1864, John STON gave SHERMAN the only real for not recognizing it. licking he encountered on his march to the sea. It happened on the height near Marietta, Ga., some twentyodd miles outside of Atlanta. A soldier from Ohio, ABBAHAM LANDIS by son was born to him on November 20, 1866, he named him, not for SHER-MAN but for the elevated terrain where Johnston was victor. The years passed, forty-one of them. No body remembered the battle mountain Federal Judge out in Chicago fined Standard Oil Company \$29,240,-000. The nation boiled with the name

of KENESAW MOUNTAIN LANDIS. Time wore on, even if the fine wasn't paid, and Judge Landis suspended a lawyer. He did not fine him \$29,240,000, but held him for the Grand Jury on charges of perjary contempt of court. The lawyer pleaded for delay, urging that he was expecting an heir. Go, said the court, but you must make good on that excuse. The lawyer, returning to the bar of justice, cried: "It's a boy and I've named him KENESAW MOUNTAIN LANDIS RUBENSTEIN." Court was adjourned, as was fitting.

The future of the lawyer is unim portant in comparison with the future of the name. It is, or ought to be, a snowball, gathering as it rolls on through the ages. Those who take it must accept it entire. Its first member cannot be dropped, because 'Mountain" alone means nothing; nor can that necessary and now proper noun be discarded, "Landis" must remain because it is more famous than the battle itself.

In 2016, when KENESAW MOUN-TAIN LANDIS RUBENSTEIN MALONEY SCHULTZ JOHNSON runs for Mayor of Chicago, who shall be against him? It is impossible to keep a good mountain down.

The Amateur in the Kitchen.

The amateur is just now highly praised in more than one department. In the theatre the amateur, we are told in youthful and enthusiastic quarters, whether he be the playwright or the actor, is much more important than the experienced artist, who has been wasting years in acquiring the technical means of his profession. Then in photography the amateur has been acclaimed as superior to the plodding professional who thought it was worth while to learn his business. The amateur decorator has become so numerous that the difference between the professtonal and the dilettante is scarcely discernible. The amateur milliner as well as the seamstress has long been a family friend. The child in art has recently been appreciated with warmth by the critical.

Now the amateur cook has come It was the expectation of the invad- than 200 men? Making at 11 o'clock into the foreground; no longer is the es to take over all of the gasolene that in the night was knocked down and family dining room the only place in had been stored and to reopen the re- stunned by the force of a high explo- which the merits of home coaked ar-

fineries under their own management. sive shell, but "pulled himself to ticles are to be enjoyed. The tea room gether and resumed his work." Piper in one form or another is nov DANIEL LAIDLAW of the King's Own stretched from Washington Square to Scottish Borderers at a critical mo- Harlem. Its advantages as they are ment at Loos leaped upon a trench set forth in its claim to public supparapet and rallied and roused his port lie in its differences from the company with "Blue Bonnets Over the restaurant of commerce. The viands Border" and "The Standard on the of the tea room are those of the Braes of Mar." LAIDLAW was home; avowedly of the kind the head

> The generous support that thes amateur restaurants have received shows that they are filling a gastronomic need. The principal secret of their success seems to lie in the employment of a blue ribbon of some kind or another, whose talents had heretofore been devoted to the service of a family rather than to s to the kitchen of what may be called viding what the chef has never been able to give to his wider circle that the home cook has made herself useful in the community and established an undeniable vogue for the amateur in a new field; for whatever her skill may be in the art of the home kitchen tics may be formed. There is a quiet, she is a dilettante in the professional restaurant.

The Budget Stands. The attempt to override Mayor needed and who could not leave a MITCHEL's vetoes of the Aldermanic reductions of the 1917 budget failed in some faces is that of men who take of success by eleven votes. The Tamable to win the assistance it needed soul of good nature. The buildog type from the supporters of the administra ranged by the executive officers of the

city will be arried out in its entirety. The changes proposed in the budge by the Aldermen were neither logica nor well advised. They would have prevented the introduction of gravely benefiting the taxpayers. They work the appearance of pinpricks rather than of sincere efforts to better the budget, and at no time were they taken seriously by the public.

There are inequalities in compen sation among municipal employees that should be corrected, and extravagances that should be eliminated, but the method followed by the Board of gin and repute, it is to be noted that Aldermen in its treatment of the

> Mincola are puzzled over the right name for a white bird which has been seen about the court house lawns for the past few days. Some bird lovers think it is a white robin; others hold that a white blackbird has been found .- The Brooklyn Eagle.

It is the dove of peace, but nobody can blame the Long Island naturalists

Representative EBENEZER J. HILL O connecticut believes the interests of the Republican party would be advanced by consolidating the national the Congressional committees name, returned home with such vivid and the selection of new officers memories of the battle that when a Under the present system the committees frequently interfere with each other and their spheres of activity tion and simplicity might be an ad mirable Christmas gift to the party.

> How do the homecoming soldiers of Squadron A like our climate!

This day 140 years ago WASHINGTO of an explanatory statement.

Christmas tree for birds is richl hung .- Newspaper headline. And how did the much discussed sparrow family behave at the party?

The Mad Hatter and the March Hare and conspiracy. Later he found it are interesting as diplomats. "It was necessary to order him to jail for the best butter," but it shouldn't have bread knife. "Some crumbs got in."

The First Church and the Plymouth Church of Milford, Conn., are divided by a quarrel which began in 1737, and have recently refused to compose their old differences. The Land of Steady Habits deserves its title; certainly its people are steadfast in their disputes.

Geologists say human bones found in Florida deposit are 125,000 years old. Newspaper headline. Perhaps these early visitors in

fossiliferous Florida died of disappointment attending failure to discover the Fountain of Perpetual Youth.

hat if railroad legislation is taken up in Congress after the Christmas recess both houses will work ten or twelve hours a day. A fine example for the guardians of our liberties to set!

A Washington despatch informs us

eighth annual convention of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society, who will be in town this week. We can imagin no more innocently diverting way for college boys to spend the holidays.

The modern Jack Horner pulls out bonus.

Peace and Good Will. Christmas! But can we speak "Peace on Earth" While half the world sounds

call "To Arms!" And blood showers warm from shell shattered hearts Drench earth from Baltle to the Red

Yea still! For though war's sword may

No weapon such can kill the ho They killed the "Prince of Peace." Peace lives on

And still its deathless message gives all give you yet then, as our Christmas

"Peace and Good Will" with fellowship sincere. Twixt us and every land, and they to

Peace that shall come for aye through

faith's great call. Rev. WILLIAM CARTER, D. D. "IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?" The Christmas Classic Reprinted in

Response to Numerous Bequests.

The subjoined letter is taken from among the many of similar import which have come to us during the past week, as is usual at this season. They show the undying interest of the editorial article written by the late Frank Pharcellus Church nearly twenty years ago in reply to the question of little Virginia O'Hanion. plying copies of the text to scores of newspapers and weekly and monthly country, and to persons desiring to reproduce it for holiday circulation among their friends. Perhaps no other editorial article ever written has been by so many millions of people who lovellest utterances of the Christmas

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir! I am an old time reader of TRE Sow and have a little girl, Anna, who scemingly is doubt-ful about there being a "Santa Claus." I told her that if she looks in THE SUN on Christmas morning she will be convinced by reading the famous reply of one of your old staff writers to little Virginia O'Hanion, which I have oftentimes read ELIZABETH, N. J., December 17,

Is There a Santa Claus?

From Tan Son of September 21, 1897. We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the comits faithful author is numbered among the friends of THE SUN:

DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Papa says "If you see it in THE SUN

Please tell me the truth; to there a Santa VIRGINIA O'HANLON,

115 WEST NINETT-PIPTH STREET. Virginia, your little friends are the scenticism of a scentical age. They do not believe except they see. seeded reforms without appreciably think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this insect, an ant. In his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! might as well not believe in fairles! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. those that neither children nor men was a surplus of \$5,200,000 during the can see. Did you ever see fairies present year in the postal department. dancing on the lawn? Of course not. but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine against the expenses of the department all the wonders there are unseen and

unseeable in the world. that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is the Post Office Department of this counit all real? Ah. Virginia, in all this try was given to the public similar to world there is nothing else real and what is demanded from any large busiabiding

lives, and he lives forever. A thou- ownership of our railroads, sand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

LIQUOR WITHDRAWALS. Effect of the Storage Period Limita tion Questioned.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: W. Godfrey thinks that the increased revenue from taxes on liquor during the past fiscal year was caused by the fact that the eight year period for storage in bond had expired, making the large withdrawals of tax paid liquor compul sory. There is nothing in this attempted explanation. The quantity withdrawn because of the expiration of the eight year period was not materially larger than in former years; taxes on distilled spirits increased more than \$13,000,000 Mr. Godfrey says that while this year was better than 1914 and 1915, it a far cry from a normal year. If he will refer to the official reports of the Internal Revenue Bureau he will find that the consumption during the past fiscal year is nearly 4,000,000 gallons above the average for the past ten years, notwithstanding the fact that more than half the population of the entire country is under statewide or local H. L. prohibition. NEW YORK, December 24.

Sunday and the Law.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: When it was said that the poor will be always with us we might now think that it referred not only to those lacking in earthly things but also to the poor spirit, the mentally impoverished. get this idea from the efforts of some selfish and narrow minded men to breathe life into an ancient law about Sunday amusements. The Sabbath is the only time for mill-

ions of workers to seek learning and entertainment. Mayor Gaynor always said that the seventh day was one peace, rest and recreation, and challenged all evidence, Biblical or otherwise, to the contrary. The opinion of Justice Platt and others gives us hope. The views of these men recall one of Mill's thoughts: "The laws of most countries are far worse than the people who execute them."

THEODORE MICHEL. BROOKLYN, December 23.

From the Bakers Weekly. men have such a knack for making a fizzie of everything they undertake that one may rightfully call them "mo-

DRY MONTANA. Political Effect of Unfavorable Clima

tle Conditions. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIE: Montana has adopted prohibition, and it is appropriately heralded as "the biggest dry territory on the continent

Montana has 146,201 square miles of territory and is as big as New England New York, New Jersey and Pennsyl vania combined, but instead of the 30 000,000 people living in this Eastern ter-ritory the big dry State has about the same population as the District of Co-The people of Montana have with a square mile for plenty of room. every man and his wife who

Montana has a reputation for drynes which will help the people to accept prohibition. The greatest effort of the lic life was to convince the Senate tha should aid in reducing the drynes of Montana by appropriating some millmake it habitable for man. He complained that there was not enough water key. Senator Carter's appeal was effecbut after Uncle Sam had spen millions for irrigation in Montana Agricultural Department recom mended dry farming for that country.

So, with dry farming and not enoug water for highballs in Montana, pro hibition harmonizes the Constitutio with the landscape and the forced hab its of the majority of the people. If the State had the population of its cor ding territory in the East and their habits, prohibition might cause heart burnings on the one hand and hope of a dry nation on the other. But munication below, expressing at the where only one man and his wife in same time our great gratification that square mile are without the accommoda tion of a saloon, it is not such a denia of personal rights en masse by sumptu ary legislation as to arouse the sympathy of the whole country.

It would require a thousand square miles of Montana to support one saloot and the travel is too great to ride, ever in an automobile, for a noonday glass

Prohibition must be a success in Mon tana outside of the old mining town of Butte, which has less than 40,000 population, and the Butteites never did car much about State laws, but went their way regardless of constitutions and stat The appropriateness of prohibi tion in Montana is that it compels th people to conform to their natural sur oundings.

Tom Carter, in his eloquent plea fo irrigation, complained that Montana was so dry that the people had been com pelled to imitate the camel and learn to live without drinking while at home Prohibition written into the Constitutio of Montana, taken in connection with the conditions imposed by nature, pre sents a beautiful symphony in dryness and that too after heroic efforts of her statesmen to make the State wet b liberal appropriations from the Federa

It simply shows that the people of Montana are not supermen, but ordinar human beings, who in the end surrende to the inevitable and go back to origina conditions and harmonize with the face of nature in the biggest dry territory WASHINGTON, D. C., December 23.

POST OFFICE SURPLUSES. Would an Impartial Bookkeeper Be Able to Find Them!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIC: In THE SUN appears the statement tha The most real things in the world are the Postmaster-General declares there Even as they fell, unchanged, beneath the Can it be that the salaries of all the postmasters of the country are charged in making up this statement?

Naturally no one would expect a Government department to consider as a rattle and see what makes the noise debit charge such a trifle as a fair in inside, but there is a veil covering the terest rate on the cost to the Governunseen world which not the strongest ment of the various post office buildings man, nor, even the united strength of and it is generally understood that the could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, borne largely by the owners of the rall-poetry, love, romance, can push aside road securities.

If once a clean, business statement of ness corporation, it might give cause for No Santa Claus! Thank God! he thought to many who favor Government

Naturally the improvident, the "tired" ones and the much smaller number of really unfortunates would not care a under our present methods of raising Government revenues a large part of the funds necessary to make up operating deficits would come from the pushing citizens, and those who, afte years of hard work and economies, had saved up enough to insure a comfort ble living in their old age. SENEX. ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., December 23.

CAN RUDENESS WIN? Impoliteness as a Weapon in the Fight for Equal Suffrage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Can anything be more preposterous than to think President Wilson could have any but a feeling of disgust for a cause which shows such a broad streak of systems." Yes, indeed. The difference yellow as was exemplified when the is about as great as between right and banner was unfurled by those childish women in Washington?

Surely if anybody else had been so rude to the Chief Executive these very women who thought they could drive him to commit himself in such a humiliating way would suggest the very kine of punishment I think should be dealt out to them. I am certain they have set the date

for universal suffrage a long way off by this exhibition of unpreparedness for its responsibility. READER GRAND HAVEN, Mich. December 23.

Hasty Pudding. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: 11

corn I have seen no mention of a poem called "Hasty Pudding," written by Joel Barlow, one of our former Ministers to NEW YORK, December 23.

TRADE BRIEFS. Veneer seats and backs for chairs and

The Peruvian Congress has authorized in the city of Iquitos. It will be paid for y taxes on exported rubber.
Ship chandlers' supplies are needed in Egyptian firms have made inquirir

bout low priced pleasure automobiles. Farmers in the Fayal consular district. Azores Islands, complain of having to har ripens because of the attacks of a fly that causes the fruit to rot. American horseshoe natis are in demand. A fine of fifty years of love, a the Canary Islands as a result of the Paid by ourselves—in kiese

THE YOUNG AMERICAN POET WHO DIED FIGHTING IN FRANCE.

A Volume of Verse by Alan Seeger of the Foreign Legion Will Please Friends of Manhood and Letters.

derable and of promise greater

still. Both died on the field of battle.

through service to his country, while

Legion fought under an alien banner

because his own nation had no part

There may be in the Foreign Legion

many soldiers of fortune. But there

are many more who follow its flag from other motives than the appetite

or the craving for excitement.

of men this country can pro

verses he gave tribute to

from a war where freedom

stood aside."

cated us.

stake America withheld and, daunted

Of those who "Fell in the sunny

morn and flower of their years" was

mindful of the ancient debt, Came

back the generous path of Lafayette";

Double your glory is who perished thus

For you have died for France and vindle

On those red fields where blow with furl-

Was countered, whether the gigantic fra; Rolled by the Meuse or at the Hois Sabot

Accents of ours were in the flerce melée

and on those furthest rime of ballowed

His own lines fit himself:

And on the tangled wires

tion or other littleness in this:

Clad in the glory of fallen warriors,

Grim clusters under thorny trelilees

And earth in her divine indifference

Prate to be heard and caper to be seen.

But they are silent, calm; their eloquence is that incomparable attitude; No human presences their witness are,

But summer clouds and sunset crimson

Nay, even our salutations seem profane. Opposed to their Elysian quietude;

Hall, brothers, and farewell; you are twice

Our salutations calling from afar,

From our ignoble plane And undistinction of our lesser parts:

tiers.

etrewn

changing moon:

northern star

Seeger himself; of those "Who not un-

Like and unlike the case of Rupert | regret that there can never be success Brooke is that of Alan Seeger. Both sive volumes carrying on to ripe fruit were young poets of performance not age the pro ering. For here is an authentic voic of poetry. Here is youth singing be But the Englishman served mankind cause of joy in its heart: the joy discovery, the joy of battle. an exuberance not unattractive, though it least of all the young pe im, He is kin to Keats. He mu more pleasure than he read, say

Rhythm was his natural gestur a swashbuckler, not a hunter of liter-A man of his sort does not enlist in the Foreign Legion out of curiosity way of his native poetic vocabulary His pages are eloquent, his imager clear and honest; and with the ef like Seeger show Europe what kind with self-respect and respect for you Readers of THE SUN will recall those art, inborn and gallantly cultivated vividly written, well balanced reports Above all, there are variety in the ma ter and fitly changing graces in paper, straight from the trenches They must also recall his "Ode in manner. And these assertions are no Memory of the American Volunteers the residue of analytic criticism. Fallen for France," which Seeger was book that must be regarded not merel to have read near the statue of Lafay as a curiosity, a monument to the ette and Washington in Paris last poetry that we might have had fro Memorial Day. In those splendid Alan Seeger had he lived, but as trepid few Obscurely fallen here be just as it stands, to the best in th American poetry of this day whe impossible for scoffers to say "that the misled maker of verse and the

fred. His book is not Shelley's

heard and caper to be seen. Because Seeger was such a poet a his poems were such as they are an because the genuinely quickened to terest in poetry of Americans of th scured by quacks of "form" and r form, this substantial collection of 17 odd pages of real poetry must con mand attention, even on the part of hemselves with such matters. Th technical interest is completely over shadowed by the "human" interest for here is a gallant youngster spinning his own substance into sparkling web

mischievous charlatan "prate to

of beauty. He was sufficiently American. Where the feriorn, the gallant charge father and mother both were of New expires.
When the sight bugler long has ceased England, and he was born in New York, June 22, 1888. His first te years the family lived on Staten Is From 1900 to the boy's four The last wild rally staggers, crumbies, teenth year he lived in Mexico. The he went to school at Tarrytown. H spent a year in southern California and then entered Harvard, where h Now, heaven be thanked, we gave a few brave drops; Now, heaven be thanked, a few brave was graduated in 1910. After tw restless years in New York, he wer There speaks not the poet who chose He signed into the legion, not to was be a soldier, but the soldier who the gunpowderless war against wa had the gift of poet speech. How the that some poets yearn for, but to fig. for freedom, and for his below

France. And he was a good soldier There, holding still, in frozen steadfast-Mr. William Archer, who writes biographical and only slightly critics Their bayonets toward the beckoning fronintroduction to these poems, hold high as a formative influence the tin They lie-our comrades-its among their a tropic warmth in many lines, a Mexican scenes are the material ! some of Seeger's poems. But to man Leaves that made last year beautiful, still persons it will be pleasing to this that into the making of this poet we not least importantly the cooler offer of the years spent on the hills over looking this city's wonderful hard oils on, and many paitry things and mean and the years passed beside our lord

river. They will choose to see in the poems a pleasing combination of fervi The death that Alan Seeger d somewhere in France," will gain i And showers and night winds and the and the sentimental, but for those wi are genuinely concerned with Ame-ican manhood and American lette no such adventitious interest is need to establish the right to recognition alike of the poems and the poet. Hot enforce the justice of the view he by some of us who are not too light;

blessed, brave hearts. Seeger's poems are now published optimistic, that this country, for all by the house of Scribner; we have its distresses and manifest deficient read them with growing pleasure as cies, is not lacking in either manithe pages passed—and with growing ness or the appreciation of beauty,

CRIME'S PUNISHMENT. Shall the Convict "Getting Even" Be Christmas Thoughts of a Faithful Mu-

Encouraged?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Comnissioner Hurd's article on Sing Sing am a city employee and I work a prison merits earnest consideration. The Sundays and legal holidays. I put Osborne system is said to be self-govern- eight hours daily and fifty-six hours in a ing while the old system is characterized week. My wages are \$2.50 a day since as repressive and aims to punish men 1906, and in eleven years I have no states specifically that the new system disdains the "slightest aim at punishment." Hence the alternative is presented of choosing punishment for crime is \$2 or \$2.50 a day during his life as a under the old system or changing to non-punishment under the new.

We are informed, however, that "a deep spiritual gulf separates these two wrong. Punishment for sin is Scriptural: moreover, the punishment in most cases carries the corollary of pity. In the fall of 1915 a pro-Osborne

meeting was held in Mount Vernon. Several ex-convicts from Sing Sing were on the platform and two of them admitted serving long terms for crimes committed wantonly. One, after serving ten years for burglary, brazenly avowed that he sought to "get even" with society by robbing a bank. In fact the "getting even" idea was emphasized by three of the speakers, and not one word was uttered against such a poor excuse for crime. Much better to have inculcated "moral education and stimulus" by telling the convicts that they owe sothe discussion started by Henry Wat- ciety a humble apology for their wanterson regretting that no poet had ton attack upon it; that contrition for worthily sung the praises of Indian crime is far better than trying to "get even" with society. It is hoped that the new administra

tion will not install a system that will render Sing Sing an attractive place for thugs, thieves and murderers WILLIAM WEST. CRANFORD, N. J., December 23

Punishing Santa Claus.

cane for chair seats are in demand in What shall we do to Santa Claus-Who breaks into our houses when The Christmas moons are mellow! We bring the culprit into court This early Christmas morning

Since Santa only steals our hearts Such dolls and games and books and toy And lovely Christmas raiment.

TWO-FIFTY A DAY. nicipal Worker.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIN received a single cent increase. That ! the Bureau of Standards and the Boar of Estimate think all a man is worth city employee, and we are as faithful

as horses until we break down. The Western Union Telegraph Company will give messenger boys \$25 for Christmas; the Standard Oil Company has increased laborers' pay, but we are used worse than Russians. Regarding Sunday and legal bolidays, we do no get fifty-two Sundaya and ten lega iolidays or as much vacation time the gang in the City Hall and Municipa

Building. I suppose the Bureau of Standards will say mock prayers on Christma for doing nothing for men earning from \$600 to \$900 a year. Figure out \$2.50 day for 803 working days; figure of \$2.50 a day for 313 working days, figure out \$2.50 a day for 365 works days. Eleven, twelve or fourteen day vacation is what the man in overal gets. Now a new pay system has p begun that makes my carfare 80 cea week. I have to buy my own forms, rubber boots, rubber coat and and and winter gloves all on \$2.50 a day. faithful old war horse I am.

At the last election more than 2.6 voters wrote my name on the ball for President of the Board of Alde men as a protest to the City Hall gar on account of the poor pay, who Tammany or the Republicans or fusion party is in power. Some the poorly paid deserving laborstreet cleaners, drivers and others : elect men to office who will give liv wages and do away with the hour pay system of the so-called "per die men. I will work my full eight hours

How many more years am I going to work for \$2.50 a day? I never a married. On such a salary call members of the Board of Estimate for years and take a family man in overails has not got a . to Every politician knocks us work' men, as I know from my own expe

WILLIAM WALLEN New Your, December 31,